

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-10 OC-06 CCO-00

OMB-01 SAI-01 SAB-01 NEA-11 IO-14 AID-20 PC-10 CU-04

NIC-01 DRC-01 MMS-03 /208 W
----- 091672

P 071132Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4731

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAR ES SALAAM 0388

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR IO TZ

SUBJ: PROPOSED EMBASSY STATEMENT ON INDIAN OCEAN

REF: (A) USIA 2502 (B) STATE 22251 (C) DAR 0353

1. PULLING ON INFORMATION CONTAINED REFS (A) AND (B),
EMBASSY INTENDS ISSUING STATEMENT BELOW UNLESS DEPARTMENT
PERCEIVES OBJECTIONS.

2. EMBASSY RELEASE FOLLOWS ON OUR STATEMENT REF (C)
THAT WE WOULD COMMENT ON GENERAL SUBJECT OF INDIAN
OCEAN TO ASP/TANU YOUTH LEAGUE DELEGATION WHICH CAME
ON 4 FEB.

3. STATEMENT TEXT WITH UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED:
QTE UNITED STATES HAS HISTORICALLY MAINTAINED NAVAL
PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA. OUR MIDDLE EAST FORCE,
NORMALLY CONSISTING THREE VESSELS, HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE
SINCE 1949. FOR SOME TIME US HAS INTENDED SUPPLEMENT
THAT PRESENCE WITH PERIODIC VISITS BY OTHER SHIPS. US
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NOW IMPLEMENTING THIS POLICY AS PART OF WORLDWIDE GOAL

WHICH ADVOCATES FREEDOM NAVIGATION FOR ALL NATIONS ALONG
INTERNATIONAL AIR AND SEA ROUTES.

QTE US HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED EXPANSION OF NAVAL
COMMUNICATION SUPPORT FACILITY ON ISLAND DIEGO GARCIA,
SOME 2,300 MILES FROM TANZANIA. WE APPRECIATE CONCERN
EXPRESSED BY SOME STATES, INCLUDING TANZANIA, THAT
INDIAN OCEAN NOT BECOME AN ARENA FOR MILITARY RIVALRY
OF GREAT POWERS. IT CERTAINLY NOT DESIRE OF US TO
CAUSE SUCH COMPETITION. WHAT IS IN QUESTION HERE SIMPLY
RESPONDING TO NEED TO PROVIDE, IN ADDITION TO RELIABLE
COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, BETTER LOGISTICAL AND
OPERATIONAL SUPPORT TO AMERICA AND, AS NECESSARY, BRITISH
VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT WHICH MAY BE OPERATING IN OR
TRANSITING OPEN SEAS OF INDIAN OCEAN.

QTE ALTHOUGH RECENT AMERICAN ACTIONS IN INDIAN OCEAN
HAVE COME UNDER ATTACK IN TANZANIA, WE WISH POINT OUT
THAT SOVIET UNION HAS HAD IN RECENT YEARS AND PRESENTLY
HAS CONSIDERABLY MORE VESSELS IN INDIAN OCEAN THAN
DOES U. S. THERE CURRENTLY IN INDIAN OCEAN APPROXIMATELY
29 SOVIET SHIPS, TWO-THIRDS OF WHICH ARE SUPPLY AND
AUXILIARY VESSELS. END QTE. DECONTROL 3/7/74.
CARTER

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